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Letter dated 21 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 November 2008, addressed to you by Mr. Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I will be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki İlkin
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-61958 (E) 011208

Annex to the letter dated 21 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 7 November 2008 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/63/543-S/2008/704 and Corr.1), which yet again contains well-known allegations of violations of "international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus" and to bring to your kind attention the following:

As stated in our previous communications addressed to you, habitually repeated allegations by the Greek Cypriot side of so-called "airspace violations" are totally unfounded and are rejected in toto by our authorities. The present allegations do not merit a detailed reply as they are of a similar nature. However, I wish to emphasize, once again, that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State. The Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say over flights within the national airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

The Greek Cypriot administration should be reminded, once again, that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey. I also deem it imperative to point out, once again, that the attitude demonstrated by the Greek Cypriot representatives in their constant repetition of false claims is nothing more than rhetoric, which unfortunately wastes the precious time and energy of the international community.

Furthermore, at a time when the full-fledged negotiations between the two leaders are under way, such claims and defamation tactics are counterproductive and will serve nothing other than poisoning the positive atmosphere on the solution front.

Lastly, I would like to stress that the Turkish Cypriot side is ready and doing its best for achieving a settlement in the form of a new partnership which will be in line with the established United Nations parameters and body of work. Bizonality, political equality of the two peoples, the equal status of the two constituent states and the continuation of Turkey's effective guarantee will constitute the parameters for a solution to the Cyprus problem. Removal of the existing isolations on Turkish Cypriots and equal treatment of the two sides by the international community will surely contribute positively to the efforts towards reaching a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus